

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DRC-01 PC-04 SCCT-02 SY-03 CU-04

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R 052355Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2731

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 1958

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

1. FURD SECRETARY-GENERAL LEONEL PONCIANO CONTINUES TO HOLD A NARROW LEAD IN THE ELECTORAL COUNCIL'S RECOUNT OF THE GUATEMALA CITY MAYORAL ELECTION. WITH ABOUT HALF THE RECOUNT COMPLETED, PONCIANO TOLD REPORTERS APRIL 3. THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC HE WOULD BE DECLARED WINNER. MAYOR COLOM ARGUETA COMMENTED TO PRESS THAT ACCORDING TO ELECTORAL LAW, VOTING TABLE TABULATIONS (ACTAS), WHICH SHOW PONCIANO VICTOR, MUST BE GIVEN PRECEDENCE OVER THE COUNCIL'S BALLOT COUNT. COLOM IS TECHNICALLY CORRECT, BUT IN SCRUTINY OF CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION, COUNCIL CONSISTENTLY IGNORED ACTAS IN DETERMINING OUTCOME. OUR CONJECTURE AT THIS POINT IS THAT PONCIANO WILL COME OUT THE WINNER.

2. THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN OF JUAN DE DIOS AGUILAR SINCE HE WAS KIDNAPPED TWO WEEKS AGO. AGUILAR' WIFE TOLD PRESS APRIL 4 THAT SHE HAD RECEIVED NO MESSAGE FROM HER HUSBAND OR KIDNAPPERS. SPECULATION HAS INCREASED THAT KIDNAPPING MAY HAVE BEEN POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. CLEMENTE MARROQUIN ROJAS EDITORIALIZED APRIL 2 IN LA HORA THAT AGUILAR MAY HAVE BEEN ABDUCTED BECAUSE OF  
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HIS CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH COLONEL ENRIQUE PERALTA AZURDIA.

CTF LEADER MORALES CUBAS TOLD US YESTERDAY (APRIL 4) HE HAD HEARD THAT AGUILAR HAD PLANNED TO GIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT TO PERALTA. MORALES ADDED THAT IF KIDNAPPING HAD BEEN ECONOMICALLY MOTIVATED, THE WEALTHY AGUILAR FAMILY WOULD HAVE PAID RANSOM LONG BEFORE NOW.

3. MORALES ALSO TOLD US HE HAD RECENTLY NOTED MORE ACTIVITY AROUND PERALTA'S HOME THAN DURING THE PRE-ELECTION PERIOD. WE HAVE HEARD FROM SEVERAL SOURCES THAT PERALTA HAS RESISTED PRESSURES TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY.

4. THE UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S SATIRICAL PARADE, THE HUELGA DE DOLORES, IS SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, APRIL 5. THE HUELGA MAGAZINE, NO NOS TIENES, IS HEAVILY WEIGHTED TOWARD GOADING THE ARMY INTO INTERVENING IN ORDER TO REVERSE THE ELECTION FRAUD.  
MELOY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** ELECTION RESULTS, KIDNAPPING, POLITICAL SITUATION, LOCAL ELECTIONS, ELECTION FRAUD, STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 APR 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974GUATEM01958  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740078-0808  
**From:** GUATEMALA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Line Count:** 78  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 SEP 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS  
**TAGS:** PINT, GT, (PONCIANO, LEONEL)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005